

using Gibs-Martin formula to work out the index of crop diversification.

In Chapter-6, authors discussed agricultural diversification and food security-- -- AMeso Level Analysis. In this Chapter, the authors elaborated the concepts of food security, indicators of food security, database and methodology, spatial pattern of food security, district-wise consumption unit, spatial pattern of consumption units, carrying capacity of land, food security and food security in monetary value. The authors concluded that a total of nine districts covering nearly 73 per cent of the districts have food secure status. There are three districts viz., Rudraparayat, Bageshwar and Almora which have the status of food security, while two districts of PauriGarhwal and TehriGarhwal have moderate level of food security. The largest number of districts i.e., four districts of Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital and US Nagar constituting nearly 31 per cent of the total districts have high level of food security with more than ₹ 15,000 per consumption unit per annum.

In Chapter-7 captioned, Agriculture Diversification and Food Security --- A Micro level Analysis, the authors examined the personal and household characteristics, farming characteristic of households, spatial patterns of agricultural land use, agricultural diversification ---- livelihood based levels of food security were discussed at length emphasising the ground realities.

While summing up, the study offers several suggestions. The study of level of food security has been analysed at household and village level with reference to calorific and

monetary value. The study revealed that nearly 50 per cent of the households are food insecure. Out of this, one-third are severely food insecure, while the other two-thirds are insecure. Among the food secure categories, nearly 27 per cent farmers are very high food secure while only one-third are highly secure. The remaining 14 per cent are moderately secure. However, the overall status of food security is not satisfactory. The status of food security of households with reference to monetary value is better and satisfactory because the farmers increased their purchasing power by adopting diversified activities.

This book will be of immense help to academicians, particularly research scholars in the field of agriculture besides those involved in policy formulation and administration of various governmental schemes for evolving effective strategies in gaining food security particularly in the mountainous eco-system.

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Indian Economy in Transition : Essays in Honour of C.T.Kurien, Edited by S.Janakarajan, L.Venkatachalam, R.MariaSaleth SAGE Publications Pvt. Ltd., Price ₹ 995.

India has achieved an impressive economic growth since the introduction of LPG policies during 1991. The economic transition paved the path for much greater role of private sector, enhanced flow of FDI's and balanced terms of trade. However, the way in which economic transition is achieved and the process of globalisation is a mixed blessing in view of many economic, social and cultural side effects. This volume is published in honour

of Professor Christopher Thomas Kurien who is among the few economists in India who made a lasting contribution to economic reach and policy. It covers some of the key issues and challenges that have emerged during and after the process of economic transition in India. In the introductory chapter on "Indian Economy in Transition : Context and Overview of Issues", the authors set the stage and context and provide an overview of 14 chapters that are included in this volume. They questioned the issue of effectiveness of economic transition in achieving the social and welfare goals and the role of ecosystems in sustaining the economic growth.

In the first chapter on "Globalisation and Indian Economy: Issues and Concerns", the author while assessing the country's experiences and concerns in participation in the global regimes argued that globalisation have not benefited the poor countries in any substantial manner in reducing poverty and inequality. The chapter concludes with an emphatic observation that in most of the trade negotiations the agenda is formulated by the developed world, with least priority given to issues concerning environment and climate change. In the chapter on "Food Price Inflation and Public Procurement : The Indian Experience", the author tried to identify the nature and cause of food price inflation in India by looking at long run and short run aspects of rising food prices. The author argued that the fruits of growth should reach the poorest which improves their purchasing power rather than mere increase in production and productivity of foodgrains. Agrarian distress, farmers' suicides and food security are the pressing concerns of the agrarian economy in

India. In the chapter on "Agrarian Change under Reforms: A Case Study of Tamilnadu 1980-2025", the author discusses the agricultural performance of Tamilnadu in comparison with India during the period 1980-2005 using both aggregate and village level data collected through field surveys since 1970's and subsequent surveys. One of the major constraints, as observed by the author in this chapter, was limitation in expansion in irrigation in Tamilnadu which constraints agricultural productivity in the State. The same has been supported substantially in the chapter on "Is farming profitable to farmers in India ? Evidences from Cost of Cultivation Survey Data" where the author by using the cost of cultivation data for six important crops for the period 1975-2007, demonstrated that the farmers have incurred losses despite the increase in production and productivity particularly during post-1990's mainly due to the increase in private investment in irrigation.

There are many studies related to disparity in employment pattern, wages paid and employment security between men and women. In the chapter on "Measuring Labour Market Insecurity in Rural India : A Gendered Analysis", the authors focused on much neglected area of research in labour market i.e labour market insecurity for rural women by constructing a labour market insecurity index. The chapter on "Education for All in India: Issues, Policies and Imperatives", brings to light an important aspect of school education namely, "School Life Expectancy" (SLE). Through the estimates that are provided across geographical regions of India it is suggested that policies should go beyond conventional measures such as budgetary allocation and it

is imperative that one looks into issues such as enrolment rates, dropout rates and SLE and also focus on quality of schooling and learning outcomes. Ageing is already an important issue across developed world and emerging to be a significant challenge for the populous countries like India and China. The chapter on "The Emerging Ageing Scenario in India, in 2001-15", the author by projecting the emerging scenario on fertility, mortality and migration rates for the next 100 years addresses an important policy issue regarding social security cover and welfare measures for the growing elderly population in this country. The impacts of urbanisation fall differently on urban and rural areas and differently on different segments of people which has been brought out by the chapter on "Impacts of Increased urban demand for water on livelihood resilience in peri urban areas of Chennai". Findings presented in the chapter indicate that economic growth and the process of urbanisation result in a situation whereby some social groups are distinct winners but others are losers.

Air and water have natural regenerative capacity and can accept certain amounts of pollution loads from anthropogenic activity without affecting themselves. If the demand for these services exceeds the supply, it leads to degradation of the environment. It is therefore, important to look for instruments and institutions to reduce the demand for waste disposal services to their natural levels of supply. This is examined in the chapter on "Design of Economic instruments and participatory institutions for environmental management in India". The chapter on "Household level pollution in India : Patterns

and Projections" analyses the trend and pattern of fuel use at household level in India and estimates the relationship between income and pollution and points out the severe health burden falling in particular on women and children arising out of the constant use of fuelwood not by choice but due to compulsion. Institutional reforms in the water sector in India have been a much debated subject especially with the involvement of foreign donor agencies in this area. The chapter on "Market based institutional reforms for water allocation in India: Issues and the way forward" discusses various aspects of market based institutional reforms with national and international experiences and concludes that market based institutional interventions are capable of generating efficient equitable and sustainable water allocation mechanism. The chapter on "Millennium Development Goals : How is India Doing", evaluates the MDGs as a framework for measuring development and assesses how India is doing in terms of the MDGs and observes that while poverty reduction is on track, regional disparities pose a challenge.

Discrimination and governance are two major issues highlighted in the chapters above. The same is well presented in the chapter on "Social discrimination in India : a Case for Economic Citizenship" which explored the reasons whereby individuals with the same endowments but differing in social status groups command different tangible returns. The author analysed social discrimination and its manifestation and suggested possible conceptual strategies to tackle it. He further observed that different types of discrimination in Indian society is institutionalised through

several formal and informal organisations regardless of principles of equality as laid down in the Constitution. In the last chapter on "Rural Poverty : Policy and Paly Acting Revisited : why doesn't the Indian State do better in Regard to Poverty reduction", the author discusses the different aspects and concerns pertaining to democratic governance in India. The author observed that the middle class people who usually are most capable of ensuring accountability of politicians are gradually withdrawing from using public services and concludes that the drive for progressive social legislation has come through judicial activism rather than through a political process.

The volume represents a wide canvas of issues and challenges that have emerged in the process of economic transformation and dominating the development scenario in India during the past two and half decades. The chapters included in this volume lead to case of renegotiating democracy to deliver fundamental services. While trying to answer some of the questions which can become the basis for change in development policy, the chapters raise many questions, which give direction for future research.

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Microfinance India, The Social Performance Report 2013 By Girija Srinivasan, 2014, pp.156, Price ₹ 995.

Microfinance sector has grown rapidly over the past few decades. Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus is credited with laying the foundation of the modern MFIs with establishment of Grameen Bank, Bangladesh in 1976. Today it has evolved into a vibrant

industry exhibiting a variety of business models. Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in India exist as NGOs (registered as societies or trusts), Section 25 companies and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), cooperative societies and other large lenders played an important role in providing refinance facility to MFIs. Banks also leveraged the Self-Help Group (SHGs) channel to provide direct credit to group borrowers. With financial inclusion emerging as a major policy objective in the country, Microfinance occupied centre stage as a promising conduit for extending financial services to unbanked sections of population. At the same time, practices followed by certain lenders subjected the sector to greater scrutiny and need for stricter regulation.

The concept of Social Performance Measurement (SPM) in microfinance evolved significantly since 2005 when Consultative Group to Assist The Poor (CGAP), the Argidius Foundation, and the Ford Foundation brought together leaders across the industry to agree on a common social performance framework and development action plan. The book on The Social Performance Report within the microfinance sector includes a critique on the SHG-bank linkage programme when benchmarked with the standards and practices of responsible finance. This has also been supported by an additional sample study of 600 SHGs across three States (Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Karnataka) conducted in partnership with GIZ and IFMR Research. The report brings in, apart from the national trends, the key international developments in social performance management (SPM).